

NORPHLET CHEMICAL REPORT WEEK #3
January 28 – February 2, 2008
By Evert Talbot

Monday at Norphlet was spent in meetings with David Henry and Vic Forte primarily discussing how we keep past due vendors reasonably happy in order that we may continue to use most of them as we begin the final rebuilding stage and cleaning out of the plant

David has done an excellent job in choosing which ones to pay, how much to pay and when. By doing so, we seemed to have fewer vendors calling seeking payments this past week.

Evert met with Vic Forte to begin discussions on the waste disposal issues at the plant site. This pertains to 2 tanks (12,000 gallons) each that are reasonably full of "heavies", "tars" and/or unreacted TCE & HF. We are concerned about any degradation of the equipment and vessels if this material is left for prolonged periods. We also have 3 tanks of weak HCl loaded with HF to dispose of. These are the POLY tanks furnished by Polycore (Nelson Abell). Neutralization of this material was discussed.

Tuesday and Wednesday for Evert were spent in the JH Walbridge office.

Thursday morning Evert met with Ronnie Jackson, Vic Forte, Craig Wilson, and the 4 Great Lakes operators. The purpose of this meeting was to download on Evert the events of the previous day with the CeCon consultant Bill Gumprecht out of Delaware and to make sure everyone was on the same page with their interpretations of what he said. He was with Craig, Ronnie and Vic all day on Wednesday. They also drove Bill to and from Texarkana to extend consulting time with him.

Bill briefly toured the plant and then sat in meetings with the Norphlet group most of the day. Craig Wilson will make a complete report on their meetings with this consultant. From what I heard in this meeting, everyone was well pleased with Bill's knowledge and concluded as we thought that his talents were strictly on the "Chemistry" side of our process. This included a lot of information on the different types of catalyst and the pros & cons. They found him to be very knowledgeable from the research side. Bill had been out of the industry for 11 years on a direct basis. However, for the money we spent on Bill (\$3000), his trip and visit were well worth the money. We will have access to Bill by phone and e-mail in the future.

For the rest of this meeting on Thursday, we discussed as a group the need for the 2 other proposed consultants. One is Steve Owen out of Tennessee who Norphlet has used before. His expertise is process flow, engineering and simulation. We will need him on the HCl side of our build out which may include



the proposed HCl stripper and chiller system. We also briefly discussed the possibility of gathering the HCl by other methods

A purchase order was prepared for Steve Owen in the total amount of \$10,000.00 to cover his expenses for the foreseeable future. His services will be computed at \$130 per hour. Ronnie had already spent 3 hours of consulting with Steve on Friday morning. Steve also insisted that he not have to deal with the past top management of Norphlet.

The second and by far the most important consultant we discussed is Mr. Icoubo out of West Lafayette, Indiana. He is a past employee of Great Lakes and was in charge of building and designing several of their refrigerant projects. One of these was at El Dorado, Arkansas. He worked hand in hand for years with Norphlet's Dale Singleton. This consultant is about 73 years old and still travels globally designing and engineering new plants involving refrigerants, fluorine chemicals and the likes thereof. He has direct 134a PRODUCTION experience unlike Bill Gumprecht with CeCon. He has also been involved with new 134a facilities in Japan. Dale Singleton and the other Great Lakes operators have recommended him very highly. Ronnie Jackson and Vic Forte are also very familiar with him. Norphlet did try to use him in the beginning stages of construction. However, he ran into trouble trying to work with top management of Norphlet and did not become involved with the project as planned by John Garrison.

On Friday, Evert had lunch with the Director of Purchasing with Great Lakes (Chemtura) Ken Dumas. He is very familiar with the Norphlet Chemical plant and the employees. ~~Ken also lives in Norphlet very close to the plant. In our~~ conversation over lunch, Ken highly recommended that we contact Mr. Icoubo for all phases of the build out at Norphlet. They still use him occasionally as needed and when he is available.

Evert will prepare a proposed consulting agreement with Mr. Icoubo and present it to Bob James and Brian Brooks for approval. In the interim, Evert and Dale Singleton are attempting to reach Icoubo to see if he has an interest in consulting for us.

Next week we will be concentrating on moving forward with these other two consultants on the build out and process stage of the plant. We will also see guidance from all 3 consultants on approving our tentative plans for removing and disposing of the "heavies" or tars that are still in the vessels while we are down. Some of these waste products can be recycled and distilled.

Evert has a meeting set up on Monday with Judd Hammond in Baton Rouge on the Patent issues with this product. He will be briefed on our future plans and

probable changes for this process as they pertain to patent infringements. He will also give us any documents that we might have missing.

From my point of view, I am very pleased with the progress we are seeing during this early stage of "information gathering" from the consultants. I am very confident that after we have an opportunity to engage Mr. Icoubo we will have a very solid background of highly technical information and expertise to help us make the proper and most economical decisions in finishing the Norphlet project. It also appears obvious from these consultant's comments that some of the major components and the contingent items we initially planned for might not be needed.